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Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba

Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba

Report of the Secretary-General**

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** This report contains replies of Member States and United Nations organs. In spite of a clear deadline set in the note verbale for submission of contributions, the Americas and Europe Division, Department of Political Affairs, has no control over late submissions.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 54/21 of 19 November 1999, entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba", the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the appropriate organs and agencies of the United Nations system, to prepare a report on the implementation of the resolution in the light of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, and to submit it to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session.

2. Pursuant to that request, by a note dated 22 March 2000, the Secretary-General invited Governments and organs and agencies of the United Nations system to provide him with any information they might wish to contribute to the preparation of his report.

3. The present report reproduces the replies from Governments and from organs and agencies of the United Nations that have been received as of 14 July 2000. Further replies will be reproduced as addenda to the present report.

II. Replies from Governments

Algeria

[Original: French]
[10 July 2000]

1. Algeria fully supported General Assembly resolution 54/21, entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba", and voted in favour of it. It therefore fully endorses the provisions of paragraphs 2 and 3 of this resolution.

2. Accordingly, the Algerian Government has not promulgated or applied any laws and/or regulations whose extraterritorial effects would undermine the sovereignty of other States.

Angola

[Original: Engli
[31 May 20

1. The Republic of Angola has voted in the Gen Assembly for an end to the economic, trade financial blockade imposed by the United States America against the Republic of Cuba, because suc blockade has been the cause of the poverty and mis suffered by the Cuban people.

2. The Republic of Angola sees, with indignati that in spite of the adoption by the General Assem and by other international organizations of numer resolutions for the lifting of the embargo, there seen be no signs of anything leading to a dialogue betw the concerned parties for an end to the blockade.

3. The Republic of Angola, in adherence to principles and goals set forth by the Charter of United Nations, shall continue to make efforts towa a strict universal compliance with its principle of n discrimination and the mutually beneficial cooperat among all countries and peoples.

4. The Republic of Angola, in the face of t situation, reaffirms once again its determination participate in the achievement of the goals of United Nations, including a diplomatic settlement the disputes between member countries under principles of international law and therefore urges parties to do everything in their power to establis political dialogue that might lead to the end of blockade, for the benefit of both the Cuban and American people.

Antigua and Barbuda

[Original: Engli
[20 June 20

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda neit supports nor condones any act that goes contrary to requirements of resolution 54/21, entitled "Necessity ending the economic, commercial and financ embargo imposed by the United States of Amer against Cuba".

Argentina

[Original: Spanish]
[16 June 2000]

1. On 5 September 1997, the Government of the Argentine Republic promulgated Act No. 24,871. Under this Act, foreign legislation which is aimed, directly or indirectly, at restricting or impeding the free flow of trade and the movement of capital, goods or persons to the detriment of a given country or group of countries shall neither be applicable nor have legal effects of any kind within the national territory.

2. Furthermore, in accordance with article 1 of the aforesaid Act, foreign legislation which seeks to have extraterritorial legal effects through the imposition of an economic embargo or limits on investment in a given country in order to elicit a change in the form of government of a country or affect its right to self-determination shall also be utterly inapplicable and devoid of legal effect.

3. In addition, it should be noted that, at the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, the Argentine delegation, in its explanation of vote in favour of draft resolution E/CN.4/2000/L.35, said that Argentina deeply regretted the fact that the resolution made no mention of the widespread concern about the serious consequences of the embargo and other unilateral economic measures applied against Cuba for many years.

4. The delegation also noted that Argentina had repeatedly expressed its opposition to the adoption of measures of this type, citing their adverse impact on the economic and social well-being of the entire Cuban population.

Barbados

[Original: English]
[26 June 2000]

1. The Government of Barbados has no laws which in any way restrict the freedom of trade and navigation with Cuba.

2. Barbados has consistently voted in favour of the resolution entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba" since the resolution was first introduced in the General Assembly during the forty-sixth session, in 1991.

Benin

[Original: French]
[27 June 2000]

The Republic of Benin, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 53/10 of 26 October 1998, entitled "Elimination of coercive economic measures as a means of political and economic compulsion", does not recognize or apply extraterritorial coercive economic measures or legislative enactments unilaterally imposed by any State.

Bolivia

[Original: Spanish]
[14 June 2000]

The Government of the Republic of Bolivia has not adopted any laws or measures of the kind referred to in General Assembly resolution 54/21. Consequently, there are no provisions, measures or laws which the Government of Bolivia would have to repeal or invalidate in this regard.

Botswana

[Original: English]
[12 April 2000]

The Republic of Botswana has never promulgated, applied and enforced any laws and measures of the kind referred to in resolution 54/21. Botswana is therefore opposed to the continued adoption and application of such extraterritorial measures and, as reflected by its vote on resolution 54/21, supports the lifting of the embargo imposed against Cuba.

Brazil

[Original: English]
[23 May 2000]

1. Brazil reiterates its position that discriminatory trade practices and extraterritorial application of domestic laws run counter to the need for promoting

dialogue and ensuring the prevalence of the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.

2. In accordance with resolutions 47/19, 48/16, 49/9, 50/10, 51/17, 52/10, 53/4 and 54/21, Brazil did not promulgate or apply any law, regulation or measure the extraterritorial effects of which could affect the sovereignty of other States and the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction, as well as the freedom of trade and navigation.

3. Brazil's legal system does not recognize the validity of the application of measures with extraterritorial effects. Companies located in Brazil are subject exclusively to Brazilian legislation.

4. Measures by any country which violate the provisions of resolution 54/21 and which attempt to compel the citizens of a third country to obey foreign legislation affect the interest of the international community as a whole and violate generally accepted principles of international law. They should be reviewed and changed, where appropriate, in order to bring them into conformity with international law.

5. Governments not complying with resolution 54/21 should urgently take further steps to eliminate discriminatory trade practices and bring to an end unilaterally declared economic, commercial and financial embargoes.

Burundi

[Original: French]
[20 June 2000]

1. With respect to resolution 54/21, entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba", which the General Assembly adopted on 9 November 1999, the Government of Burundi shares the position of other nations.

2. The Government of Burundi upholds the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, which provide, inter alia, for freedom of trade and navigation. We hope that this issue will be settled definitively at the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

3. With respect to resolution 54/54 I, entitled "Transparency in armaments", which the General Assembly adopted on 1 December 1999, our response is still in process and will be submitted in due course.

Cambodia

[Original: English]
[23 May 2000]

The Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia feels that this is the appropriate time to remove such merciless sanctions imposed upon Cuba, which have brought too much suffering to its innocent people and a great loss of all of its socio-economic structure. In this regard, the sanctions should be lifted without condition and should be heeled by a spirit of humanitarianism and development assistance.

Chile

[Original: Spanish]
[20 June 2000]

1. The Government of Chile considers that the application by Member States of laws and regulations whose extraterritorial effects affect the sovereignty of other States, the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction and the freedom of trade and navigation undermine universally accepted principles of international law.

2. Actions which affect the legitimate economic and commercial interests of third countries disregard the basic rules governing free trade among sovereign nations. Chile opposes such actions in all their aspects.

3. Chile has therefore refrained from applying or encouraging the application of laws or administrative norms of the kind referred to in the preamble of General Assembly resolution 54/21.

Colombia

[Original: Spanish]
[19 June 2000]

The Government of the Republic of Colombia, maintaining its traditional position of respect for the principles of the self-determination of peoples and non-interference in the internal affairs of any State, has not promulgated or applied unilaterally any laws or measures against Cuba or any other State which could

affect the free development of that State's economy or trade.

Costa Rica

[Original: Spanish]
[14 June 2000]

1. Costa Rica has not promulgated or applied any provisions intended to have extraterritorial effects or to affect Cuba's sovereignty, the legitimate interests of entities or persons under its jurisdiction or the freedom of trade and navigation with it. Costa Rica engages in extensive commercial and cultural exchanges with that nation. These include exchanges in the areas of tourism, basic supplies, medicines and artistic activities.

2. Costa Rica believes that the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba and the so-called Helms-Burton Act are contrary to public international law and to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. The Government of Costa Rica regrets that these measures have caused serious economic, social and political harm to the Cuban people. It deplores the fact that the embargo and the so-called extraterritorial legislation have adversely affected the Cuban people's health and nutritional status by impeding the importation of medicine, food, medical supplies and equipment. It also regrets that, for more than 40 years, these measures have hampered Cuba's economic growth, condemning it to irremediable underdevelopment.

3. The Government of Costa Rica believes that any sanctions regime must be approved by the international community through duly authorized and representative multilateral organizations. It therefore opposes the imposition of unilateral sanctions and the extraterritorial application of national laws.

4. Lastly, Costa Rica is convinced that lifting the embargo against Cuba would be the best way to promote dialogue, freedom of trade and communication and the socio-economic well-being of the Cuban people.

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[29 June 2000]

1. Once again, the Government of the Republic of Cuba is obligated to denounce the systematic policy of aggression which the Government of the United States of America has maintained against Cuba for nearly 40 years, one of whose basic instruments is the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against our nation.

2. In the course of these four decades, successive United States administrations have applied a policy of systematic economic aggression against Cuba. Because of its extent and persistence, its use of a vast arsenal of economic and political instruments, the extraterritorial nature of its provisions and their application to third countries and its unrealized strategic objective of wearing down the resistance of the Cuban people by forcing them, through poverty, want, sickness and hunger, to abandon the socio-economic and political system which they adopted, by a free and sovereign decision, with the triumph of the Cuban Revolution, this policy of economic aggression is not confined to a mere embargo on bilateral economic relations, but constitutes veritable economic warfare.

3. The criminal nature of the embargo is evident from its very formulation, but even more so from its lengthy implementation. The reaffirmation of the intent to maintain and strengthen it still further in the current circumstances is all the more immoral and compromising for that country insofar as the United Nations General Assembly has adopted, since 1992, eight consecutive resolutions that unequivocally express the need to end this cruel and inhuman policy, and insofar as the majority by which the international community has vigorously and repeatedly opposed this policy has grown from 59 votes in 1992 to 155 in 1999.

4. An analysis of the evolution of this policy from the first time Cuba brought the issue before the General Assembly to the present clearly shows that, despite the will of the majority of the international community, the only changes made to that policy have been aimed at intensifying, widening and deepening it. In the context of the numerous measures that make up the embargo against Cuba, the United States Government continues to prohibit enterprises situated in and registered under the laws of third countries from exporting to Cuba

manufactured products containing components or materials of United States origin or exporting to the United States products manufactured with raw materials from Cuba. It also continues to prohibit third-country banking institutions from providing dollar accounts to Cuban nationals or making transactions between nationals of third countries and Cuban nationals; it relentlessly harasses third-country companies that try to do business with Cuba; and it continues to veto the provision, by international financial institutions, of loans and financial aid to Cuba. The Torricelli and Helms-Burton Acts remain basic pillars of this policy.

5. Day by day, more voices are joining the call for the abolition of this policy and of the promulgation and application of laws and regulations with extraterritorial effects that affect the sovereignty of other States, the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction and the freedom of trade and navigation.

6. The continued application of this policy by the Government of the United States of America merely demonstrates its arrogance and lack of respect for the community of nations and an obstinate desire to defy the purposes and principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations. The United States Government simply ignores the international community's demands, thereby becoming, in effect, a constant violator of international law.

7. Since 1997, a movement opposing the use of unilateral economic sanctions as a foreign policy instrument has been gathering momentum within the United States. In response to this process, and with the aim of silencing it and preventing it from growing, the United States Administration has announced a number of measures concerning Cuba since March 1998, which it has portrayed as an "easing" of the embargo. These measures establish, inter alia, an ostensibly more expeditious procedure for the approval of licences for the sale of medicines and medical equipment, as well as the approval of sales of foodstuffs, inputs and agricultural products to non-governmental entities which are independent of the Cuban Government.

8. As the Government of the Republic of Cuba stated at the time, the terms and conditions laid down for the implementation of these measures have proved to be totally unworkable because they prohibit the conduct of genuine transactions on the commercial bases of competitiveness and profitability by requiring that specific licences be obtained from the United States Government before such operations can be authorized.

9. The measures adopted have been purely rhetorical and have not changed in the slightest the situation that existed before they were adopted. The very fact that the United States Congress is still discussing initiatives to ease the embargo in the food and health sectors is tacit evidence that nothing has changed in this area, whereas, on the other hand, the complex web of laws, regulations and presidential decrees forming the embargo has remained intact and continues to be applied in all areas and to have a profound impact on the lives of the Cuban people in general and on the country's sustainable development.

10. The exhibition of medical products and equipment by United States companies, held in January 2000 in Havana, is a convincing example of the foregoing, since the United States Government refused to authorize the contracts negotiated.

11. A recent international study on the impact of economic sanctions on the health and well-being of populations subject to these measures confirms that sanctions policies cause macroeconomic imbalances and have economic and social effects on such a scale that they cannot be mitigated by humanitarian aid, and that their consequences affect the populations that are victims of these policies in ways that go beyond their state of health.

12. The existence of a number of legislative initiatives to ease the embargo on medicines and food is evidence of the growing consensus, in some sectors of the United States legislature, in favour of lifting the unilateral economic sanctions, as well as the result of the increased pressure being exerted by that country's agricultural sector to find new markets for its products and, consequently, to change the policy towards Cuba.

13. The initiatives introduced recently in the United States Congress highlight the absurdity of the rest of the regulations under the embargo. It is impossible to conceive rationally of the development of trade between Cuba and the United States unless the two countries have a normal system of business relations that allows for negotiations, normal financial flows, air and maritime transport and the benefits of the usual forms of government support for foreign trade and the necessary access to credit.

14. In contrast to the so-called flexibility on which the United States Administration prides itself, it may be noted that there have been recent and repeated cases in which United States laboratories in third countries have expressly refused to sell urgently needed medicines to save the lives of Cuban children. This demonstrates the hypocrisy of that country's policy on the sale of medicines and on human rights.

15. However, the impact of the economic and commercial sanctions is not confined exclusively to difficulties with the supply of medicine. Health and health-care services depend on the proper functioning of infrastructure for the supply of water and sanitation, the availability of electricity and medical equipment such as ambulances, X-ray facilities and refrigeration systems. Even if the so-called humanitarian exceptions for medicine were real — which, in practice, they are not — they would be insufficient to maintain health and health-care services.

16. Despite the forces which, for various reasons, are demanding that the embargo be lifted, hostility and the desire to continue the siege still prevail in the most conservative and extremist circles of the United States Congress. In this connection, it is impressive to note the growing number of anti-Cuba bills introduced in the Congress, which exemplify the prevailing intentions of the United States legislature (a summary of the most notorious bills is annexed hereto).

17. In the same vein, with respect to the unusual case of the Cuban boy Elián González, who was kidnapped in the United States, United States Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said recently that, although the two Governments had some views in common concerning the case, the United States policy towards Cuba would remain unchanged.

18. Far from what public opinion is being led to believe, what is occurring in practice is the continual strengthening of the legal provisions and actions included in the embargo policy. This is the case of section 211 of the Omnibus Appropriations Act for 1999, which is aimed at extending the premises of this policy to the area of industrial property, and sections 2225 and 2802 of the same Act, which are aimed at strengthening the control of the United States Congress over the application of Title IV of the Helms-Burton Act.

19. In the World Trade Organization (WTO), Cuba has repeatedly denounced the incompatibility of this regulation with the obligations set forth in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, and reserves the right to assess possible future actions in this context.

20. A number of countries have supported Cuba's statements in the TRIPS Council. The European Union, for its part, has held two rounds of negotiations with the United States, which have been unsuccessful thus far owing to the latter's intransigence, and recently the European Commission held consultations with all its member States to consider the establishment of a panel within WTO to rule on whether these United States laws are violations of, and incompatible with, the rules and agreements in force in the multilateral trading system.

21. In addition, the aforesaid sections 2225 and 2802 strengthen the application of Title IV of the notorious Helms-Burton Act, bearing out the threats made in 1999 against European companies that could become victims of the Helms-Burton Act because of their investments in Cuba's tourism sector.

22. In its official policy of exerting pressure on various countries, the United States Government, pursuant to the provisions of the Helms-Burton Act, continues to contend that citizens of Cuban origin who have subsequently become naturalized United States citizens can bring proceedings for properties that were expropriated from them in Cuba. This is an absurdity in the light of international law.

23. Obviously, these threats are intended to have an intimidating effect on foreign investors, to create a climate of uncertainty for investment activities and to promote delays in the operations of businesses which have already been established or in obtaining new projects.

24. Conservative analyses of the embargoes impact on the population and the country as a whole show that the United States embargo has caused losses to Cuba on the order of US$ 70 billion.

25. It is estimated that, in 1999 alone, because of the effects of the embargo, Cuba had to spend an additional $98 million for the purchase of food, such as wheat, vegetable oil, beans, poultry, powdered milk and so forth.

26. If Cuba had been able to use this amount to buy additional food, it would have been able to buy, in the

past year, an additional 100,000 metric tons of wheat, 20,000 metric tons of bread flour, 80,000 metric tons of rice, 50,000 metric tons of black beans, 30,000 metric tons of chicken and 7,000 metric tons of powdered milk, all for use in feeding its population.

27. Moreover, in 1999 the cost of the financing that covers about 60 per cent of total food imports during the year required outlays of over $45 million. If Cuba had had access to the international market under normal conditions for obtaining credit, these outlays would not have exceeded $22 million.

28. A recent study on the fundamental losses caused by the embargo in Cuba's foreign trade sector estimates that, in the area of maritime transport alone, the cumulative loss resulting from differential freight costs exceeds $6.7 billion, of which over $4.4 billion corresponds to the transport of dry cargo and $2.27 billion corresponds to the transport of liquid cargo.

29. Such losses are not confined to what has been described above, but extend to other products such as chemicals, machinery and equipment for agriculture and industry, as well as the provision of services in general.

30. The continued ban on the use of the United States dollar in Cuba's international transactions, which includes a ban on the opening of dollar accounts in third-country banks, places a heavy burden on the country's economy owing to exchange-rate fluctuations. In 1999, the United States dollar tended to appreciate in relation to most of the principal international currencies. This had an adverse effect on the Cuban economy, as it made imports more expensive, obligating the country to disburse more financial resources. The negative effects on Cuba of variations in the exchange rates of the currencies of the main countries with which it carries on its external trade were on the order of $127.3 million.

31. In recent years, the economic damage caused by the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba has amounted to some 15 per cent of Cuba's annual gross domestic product (GDP). This gives an idea of the amount of resources of which the Cuban nation is being deprived by the application of this policy.

32. The determination to destroy, at any price, the political and economic system and the values of the Cuban nation has led the United States Government to implement measures that jeopardize human life itself, as well as compliance with international standards. Economic sanctions are an integral part of United States foreign policy, and are not applied only to Cuba.

33. International studies on the impact of the United States sanctions policy indicate that, between 1993 and 1996, the United States Government initiated 35 new sanctions regimes. In 1997, that Government had sanctions against more than 50 countries, representing 68 per cent of the world's population; in 1998, the number of countries affected by unilateral United States sanctions rose to 75.

34. After nearly 40 years of suffering and deprivation as a result of this policy, the people of Cuba decided to take a supremely important and unprecedented step in their ongoing denunciation of the United States Government for its embargo and its policy of systematic aggression by bringing before the Cuban courts two lawsuits against that Government, one for "human damages" and one for "economic damages".

35. As a result of these lawsuits, which were duly notified in a timely fashion to the competent United States authorities, and following the legal proceedings initiated to hear both lawsuits, the United States Government was declared to have civil responsibility for its illicit acts against Cuba and was sentenced to provide reparation and compensation to the Cuban people in the amount of $121 billion for economic damages and $181.1 billion for human damages.

36. Both the case files showing the grounds for the two lawsuits and the judgements handed down by the court for the reparation of damages and losses resulting from the embargo and the United States' aggression against Cuba contain full and documented information on this issue and demonstrate the guilt of the authors and perpetrators of this criminal policy.

37. In addition to the foregoing comments on the embargo policy against Cuba, from late 1999 to the present, the international media, including the Internet, have revealed to the international community the case of the public kidnapping of a Cuban boy in the United States, which trampled underfoot the universally recognized principle of parental authority and turned the innocence of a six-year-old child into a symbol of that country's hostile and aggressive policy against Cuba.

38. Both the kidnapping and its aftermath are the result of the notorious "Cuban Adjustment Act", which promotes the illegal and indiscriminate emigration of Cubans to the United States, at the risk of their very lives and in contravention of the migration agreements signed between the two countries.

39. No other group of migrants has the immigration "facilities" which the United States Government grants to Cubans who decide to abandon their country by illegal means. Countless individuals, prompted by this policy, have died while trying to reach United States soil. Some studies estimate that one out of every 10 people who leave Cuba by sea will lose his or her life in the attempt.

40. Cuba will not silence these truths because it believes in the value of the principles it defends and knows that the social agenda upheld by its people is supported by millions of individuals beyond the borders of its small territory. Cuba believes in international solidarity and responsibility, and accordingly trusts that the rules and principles of international law governing the relations between States will prevail.

41. The Republic of Cuba has thus once again put forward its arguments, and hopes once again to have the support of the international community in bringing to an end this unjust and criminal policy, which may be described as an act of genocide.

Cyprus

[Original: English]
[19 April 2000]

Cyprus does not favour any attempt to enforce laws in its territory that are promulgated by other States. It is therefore opposed to the adoption of any measures that have extraterritorial application on its territory.

Czech Republic

[Original: English]
[9 June 2000]

1. The Czech Republic applies no laws or administrative measures aimed at the restriction of its mutual economic relations.

2. The Czech Republic, in line with the provisions of resolution 54/21, does not consider political, economic or other forms of containment and isolation to be an efficient tool for substantially improving the situation in Cuba.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

[Original: English]
[4 May 2000]

1. The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has been consistently maintaining the position of opposing all forms of sanctions which infringe upon the independence of the sovereign State.

2. The sanctions by the United States against Cuba mentioned in the resolution constitute a wanton violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law on the freedom of trade and navigation.

3. The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea strongly supported the aforesaid resolution calling for an end to the sanctions against Cuba and is now exerting all efforts to develop trade and economic relations with Cuba.

Dominican Republic

[Original: Spanish]
[14 June 2000]

The Dominican Republic confirms its total support for the principles set forth in this resolution, especially in relation to the need to guarantee the right to freedom of trade and navigation.

Ecuador

[Original: Spanish]
[1 June 2000]

1. Ecuador has not adopted, nor will it adopt in the future, any laws that run counter to the freedom of international trade or violate the principle of non-interference in the internal policies of States. These principles are set forth in the Political Constitution of Ecuador and, accordingly, are reflected in each and every legal, political and economic action taken by Ecuador both domestically and internationally.

Consequently, Ecuador does not apply any type of sanctions against Cuba and maintains normal diplomatic relations with that country. Accordingly, Ecuador has traditionally supported the communiqués issued by the European Union, the Rio Group and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries relating to the question and, on the basis of the same considerations, has taken a very clear position against the Helms-Burton Act within the Organization of American States.

2. With regard to the draft resolutions submitted to the General Assembly that seek to condemn the Government of Cuba for its human rights policy, Ecuador believes that this problem should be dealt with in a universal manner and should be considered in a global context.

Egypt

[Original: English]
[3 July 2000]

The Government of Egypt has not adopted any laws or measures of the kind referred to in this resolution. Consequently, there are no provisions, measures or laws which the Government of Egypt would have to repeal or invalidate in this regard.

European Union

[Original: English]
[29 June 2000]

1. The European Union believes that the United States trade policy towards Cuba is fundamentally a bilateral issue. Notwithstanding, the European Union and its member States have been clearly expressing their opposition to the extraterritorial extension of the United States embargo, such as that contained in the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992 and the Helms-Burton Act of 1996.

2. One could underline that in November 1996, the Council of Ministers of the European Union adopted a regulation and a joint action to protect the interest of natural or legal persons resident in the European Union against the extraterritorial effects of the Helms-Burton legislation which prohibits compliance with that legislation. Moreover, on 18 May 1998, at the European Union/United States Summit in London, a package was agreed covering waivers to titles III and IV of the Helms-Burton Act; a commitment by the United States administration to resist future extraterritorial legislation of that kind and an understanding with respect to disciplines for the strengthening of investment protection. The European Union continues to urge the United States to implement its side of the 18 May 1998 Understanding.

Ghana

[Original: English]
[1 August 2000]

1. The Government of Ghana once again reiterates its concern over the continued non-compliance with General Assembly resolutions 47/19, 48/16, 49/9, 50/10, 51/17, 52/10 and 53/4, in which the Assembly calls upon countries to refrain from promulgating and applying laws the extraterritorial effect of which affect the sovereignty of other States, the legitimate interest of entities of persons under their jurisdiction and the freedom of trade and navigation.

2. In view of its deep concern, the Government of Ghana, in addition to its own national efforts, has worked within non-United Nations forums to urge a lifting of the embargo. At the South Summit held at Havana in April 2000, the countries of the Group of 77 endorsed the proposal put forward by Ghana by which a joint appeal from the South was addressed to the United States to lift the sanctions. That action was based on Ghana's belief that the economic embargo imposed upon the Republic of Cuba since 1960 had lasted too long and served no other purpose than to preserve tension between two neighbouring countries.

3. Ghana upholds its view that the Helms-Burton and D'Amato legislation are a breach of international law and a violation of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

4. Furthermore, Ghana wishes to express its anxiety over the untold hardship the embargo imposes on the people of Cuba, especially women and children. The Government of Ghana hereby reiterates its continued opposition to the embargo and calls for its replacement with greater dialogue and cooperation.

Guatemala

[Original: Spanish]
[30 June 2000]

There are no legal or regulatory impediments in Guatemala to the freedom of transit or trade with the Republic of Cuba. Accordingly, it is the policy of the Government of Guatemala to oppose any coercive measures that run counter to the provisions of international law.

Guyana

[Original: English]
[15 June 2000]

The Republic of Guyana fully supports resolution 54/21, voted in its favour and is committed to honouring its mandate.

Haiti

[Original: French]
[7 July 2000]

The Republic of Haiti has refrained from promulgating and applying laws and regulations whose extraterritorial effects affect the sovereignty of other States.

India

[Original: English]
[30 May 2000]

1. India has not promulgated or applied any laws of the type referred to in the preamble to resolution 54/21 and, as such, the necessity of repealing or invalidating any such laws or measures would not arise.

2. India has consistently opposed any unilateral measures by countries which impinge on the sovereignty of another country. This includes any attempt to extend the application of a country's laws extraterritorially to other sovereign nations.

3. India recalls the Final Document adopted by the Thirteenth Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries held at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, in April 2000 on this subject and urges the international community to adopt all necessary measures to protect the sovereign rights of all countries.

Indonesia

[Original: English]
[1 July 2000]

1. It is pertinent to mention that Indonesia has always been a country committed to the principles of justice, equality and peace, the importance of which is clearly stipulated in the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. The Charter of the United Nations and other generally recognized instruments of international law also contain provisions on compliance with these principles, as well as with the principles of the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation. It is therefore fitting that Indonesia has continuously endeavoured to renounce the use of coercive measures as a means of exerting pressure in relations among States Members of the United Nations.

2. In this regard, Indonesia regrets to note that a unilateral economic embargo continues to be imposed on Cuba for more than 40 years. This is even further compounded by the application of a national act which has extraterritorial ramifications. Meanwhile, experience has demonstrated that sanctions rarely serve their intent. On the contrary, they only inflict immense socio-economic consequences upon the civilian population of the targeted State.

3. With the dawning of the third millennium, accompanied by the profound changes that have taken place in the political perspective during the last decade, the time has now come to consider a more realistic policy towards Cuba. Disputes among States Members of the United Nations ought to be settled pacifically with the observance of the good-neighbourliness approach. Hence, Indonesia calls upon Member States to comply with relevant United Nations resolutions and encourages the lifting of the economic, commercial and financial sanctions against Cuba.

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

[Original: English]
[23 June 2000]

1. The economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba contravenes all laws and principles governing international relations, the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations as well as the laws governing international trade and related conventions.

2. The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that, while the international community is directing its efforts towards resolving tensions and the further promotion and expansion of commercial relations at the global level, the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba has caused the Cuban people serious suffering and also created difficulties in global commercial and financial relations.

3. The Islamic Republic of Iran is of the view that since such measures serve to undermine international peace and security and create political and economic instability in other countries, the international community should take all necessary measures towards repealing them and preventing similar actions.

4. Moreover, the members of the international community, in particular the United Nations and other relevant international organizations, should redouble their efforts towards the creation and strengthening of a favourable international economic environment capable of providing equal opportunities for all countries to benefit from international financial and trading systems. Resort to unilateral coercive measures does not serve such an objective; it only serves to jeopardize the legitimate economic interests of the targeted countries.

Iraq

[Original: Arabic]
[19 June 2000]

1. For more than 40 years the United States has imposed its inhumane embargo on Cuba in contravention of international law and international humanitarian law, and this embargo has created innumerable obstacles to Cuba's economic development, caused extensive damage to its external trade, harmed all sectors of the Cuban economy and thus caused tremendous suffering to the Cuban people. The more international voices have been raised calling for an end to this inhumane embargo, the more the United States has intensified it, to the point where its effects have transcended the boundaries of Cuba's national territory and directly infringed on the sovereignty of other States and their right to engage in free trade with Cuba.

2. The persistence of the United States of America in ignoring the will of the international community as set forth in successive resolutions adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations for the lifting of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on Cuba constitutes a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and of the principles and provisions of international law and international humanitarian law, including the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, for the embargo against Cuba is a violation of the right to life of a whole nation. The laws and regulations of an economic and commercial character enacted and imposed by the United States against Cuba constitute patent interference in matters that lie at the very core of the domestic authority of the Cuban Government, in addition to the other manifestations of United States intervention in the internal affairs of Cuba and its organization, encouragement and financing of acts of sabotage aimed at changing the political regime in Cuba.

3. Iraq, which expresses its rejection of such measures as are being taken by the United States of America against Cuba, has never promulgated or applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 of General Assembly resolution 54/21. Cognizance should be taken of the fact that the people of Iraq is also the victim of United States aggressive tendencies, as reflected in that country's continued imposition of comprehensive sanctions on Iraq, its unilateral use of force against Iraq on a daily basis in the illegal no-flight zones and its encouragement and financing of acts of terrorism and sabotage aimed at changing the political regime in Iraq.

Jamaica

[Original: English]
[7 July 2000]

1. The Government of Jamaica has not promulgated any law, legislation or measure which would impinge on the sovereignty of any State or its legitimate national interests or hinder the freedom of trade and navigation.

2. Jamaica remains strongly opposed to the extraterritorial application of national legislation, which would in effect undermine the principle of sovereign equality of States.

3. Jamaica has advocated an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba. We remain convinced that constructive engagement is the only viable option for the elimination of tension and ensuring peace and stability in the Caribbean. We are committed to strengthening our relations with Cuba, a member of the Caribbean family and our nearest neighbour.

4. Jamaica adheres firmly to the principles of sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and peaceful coexistence of States and attaches great importance to the observance of the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

Japan

[Original: English]
[25 April 2000]

1. The Government of Japan has not promulgated or applied laws or measures of the kind that are referred to in paragraph 2 of resolution 54/21.

2. The Government of Japan believes that the economic policy of the United States towards Cuba should be considered primarily as a bilateral issue. However, Japan shares the concern, arising from the Helms-Burton Act of 1996 and the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, regarding the problem of extraterritorial application of jurisdiction, which is likely to run counter to international law.

3. The Government of Japan has been closely following the situation in relation to the above-mentioned legislation and the surrounding circumstances and its concern remains unchanged. Having considered the matter with the utmost care, Japan voted in favour of resolution 54/21.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

[Original: English]
[5 May 2000]

The Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic has consistently maintained its position that the embargo and sanctions imposed by the United States of America over the past 30 years against Cuba have not only hampered the economic and social development of Cuba, but have also violated the principles of sovereign equality of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries and freedom of international trade and navigation. As far as it is concerned, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, which abides by and complies with all the principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international laws, has neither promulgated nor applied any laws and measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to General Assembly resolution 54/21.

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

[Original: Arabic]
[29 June 2000]

1. In accordance with the Jamahiriya's support of General Assembly resolution 54/21, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya strongly opposes the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba by the United States, inasmuch as the embargo is a violation of the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of which require Members of the Organization to settle their disputes and differences by peaceful means.

2. In conformity with the purposes and principles of the United Nations and out of respect for the norms of international law, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has neither promulgated nor applied any laws of the kind referred to in the relevant paragraph of General Assembly resolution 54/21.

3. For more than a decade and a half, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has been enduring measures imposed upon it by the United States of America that are similar to those maintained against Cuba. They have included the freezing of Libyan assets held in American banks,

the imposition of restrictions on the transfer of technology to Libya and the debarment of Libyan students from pursuing higher studies in this area at United States universities. The United States Government proceeded to strengthen these measures by means of the D'Amato Act (H. R. 3107), enacted on 19 June 1996, which imposes sanctions on any person who has made an investment of $40 million or more that directly and significantly contributed to the enhancement of Libya's capacity to develop its petroleum resources. The United States Government still persists in enforcing this Act despite continued international rejection of this measure. Thus, at the first South Summit, held at Havana from 10 to 14 April 2000, the leaders and Heads of Government of the States of the South called upon the international community not to recognize or apply such laws. There is also the decision of the Thirteenth Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Cartagena, Colombia, on 8 and 9 April 2000, condemning the continued unilateral application by certain major powers of coercive economic measures; the decision of the Organization of African Unity (CM/Dec.416 (LXVIII)) expressing concern over the continued imposition of unjust economic measures whose effect is felt beyond the region of the country concerned in violation of international law, thus undermining the interests of other countries; and the decision of the twenty-fifth session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers firmly rejecting the imposition of any arbitrary or unilateral measures, whether political or legal, applied by one country against another and urging all States to consider the so-called D'Amato Act, which is contrary to international law and international norms, as null and void.

4. Inasmuch as the imposition of coercive measures is contrary to the purposes of the United Nations and to the principles of international law, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya reaffirms the substance of paragraphs 2 and 3 of resolution 54/21 and calls upon the States concerned to desist from the application of those laws and other coercive measures imposed on Cuba or on any other State and to take the necessary steps to rescind them or to render them null and void.

Liechtenstein

[Original: English]
[2 May 2000]

The Government of the Principality of Liechtenstein has not promulgated or applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to resolution 54/21. The Government of the Principality of Liechtenstein is furthermore of the view that the legislation whose implementation entails measures or regulations having extraterritorial effects is inconsistent with generally recognized principles of international law.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[1 June 2000]

1. Mexico has not promulgated and does not apply any legal provisions with extraterritorial effects. Mexico has always opposed the use of coercive measures as a means of exerting pressure in international relations.

2. Mexico bases its foreign policy on the principles of international law governing coexistence among nations: the peaceful settlement of disputes, the legal equality of States, non-interference in their internal affairs and the right of peoples to self-determination.

3. The people and Government of Mexico have repeatedly expressed their opposition to the unilateral imposition of political and economic sanctions which have not been decided upon by the Security Council or the General Assembly. Mexico has opposed the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba and has supported all the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on the necessity of ending it.

4. When the so-called Helms-Burton Act was promulgated, the Government of Mexico stated that it contravened the provisions of international law. That view was echoed in the opinion handed down by the Inter-American Juridical Committee.

5. On 24 October 1996, the Act on Protection of Trade and Investment against Foreign Laws Which Violate International Law, which had been adopted by the Mexican Congress, entered into force in Mexico. This law seeks to eliminate the negative impact of

foreign extraterritorial measures that affect Mexico's trade with other countries. The Act:

(a) Prohibits national courts from recognizing and executing foreign judicial decisions and orders which are directed against enterprises established or situated in Mexico and based on foreign laws that have extraterritorial effects and are contrary to international law;

(b) Prohibits enterprises established or situated in Mexico from acting or neglecting to act in a manner which might impair Mexico's trade or investments on the basis of such laws;

(c) Provides for the right to take legal action before federal courts on behalf of individuals or legal entities situated or established in Mexico in order to sue for payment for damages or loss resulting from a judicial or administrative procedure carried out by foreign courts or authorities in application of such laws;

(d) Prohibits the provision of information requested by foreign courts or authorities on the basis of such laws for the purpose of using it against such enterprises, and imposes financial penalties for non-compliance.

6. Mexico has friendly and respectful relations with the Republic of Cuba. Accordingly, the Mexican Government has maintained a non-discriminatory trade policy towards that country and has opposed any attempt to undermine the mutually beneficial economic ties that unite the two peoples.

Myanmar

[Original: English]
[13 June 2000]

1. The Government of the Union of Myanmar continues to maintain its consistent policy of strict compliance with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and of any scrupulous respect, among others, for the principles of the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in the internal affairs, freedom of trade and international navigation.

2. The Union of Myanmar is of the view that the promulgation and application by Member States of laws and regulations the territorial effects of which affect the sovereignty of other States and the legitimate interests or persons under their jurisdiction as well as the freedom of trade and the freedom of navigation violate the universally adopted principles of international law.

3. In conformity with the above, the Union of Myanmar has not promulgated any laws and regulations of the kind referred to in the preamble to General Assembly resolution 54/21.

Namibia

[Original: English]
[23 June 2000]

1. The Government of the Republic of Namibia believes in the sovereignty of each nation-State and upholds the principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of other States.

2. The Government of the Republic of Namibia has never imposed any trade or commercial sanctions against Cuba. The Government of the Republic of Namibia condemns the Helms-Burton Law, which has a wide extraterritorial nature. This law is a direct violation of State sovereignty, a serious breach of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and international law and a violation of the rules of the international trade system.

3. The imposition of the blockade on Cuba has brought immense suffering to the people of Cuba, and Namibia will continue to actively support the lifting of the United States blockade against Cuba.

Panama

[Original: Spanish]
[23 June 2000]

The Government of Panama opposes the unilateral application, with extraterritorial effects, of national laws and measures that affect the trade and international relations of other States, since they are contrary to international law and the principle of the legal equality of States. Panama also considers that the use of economic measures as a means of exerting pressure is contrary to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

Paraguay

[Original: Spanish]
[30 June 2000]

Pursuant to paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 54/21, the Government of the Republic of Paraguay does not have and has not promulgated or applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of that resolution, in compliance with its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which, inter alia, guarantee the freedom of trade and navigation.

Peru

[Original: Spanish]
[13 June 2000]

1. No law or measure whatsoever of the kind referred to in General Assembly resolution 54/21 exists or is applied in Peru.

2. The position of the Government of Peru on this matter is based on the joint measures adopted at meetings of the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Concerted Political Action in Latin America (Rio Group), which took place in Veracruz, Mexico, in March 1999, and on the recent declarations adopted at the Ibero-American Summit, held in Havana in November 1999, and at the Ninth Institutionalized Ministerial Meeting between the European Union and the Rio Group, held on 24 February 2000 in Vilamoura, Portugal.

3. The Government of Peru does not agree with unilateral and extraterritorial measures which seek to affect the internal political process of a specific State. Peru considers that due respect for the national constitutional order is essential in international relations.

4. Lastly, the Government of Peru wishes to reaffirm its strong and unswerving commitment to the common objectives of guaranteeing representative democracy, respect for human rights and economic freedom.

Qatar

[Original: Arabic]
[9 May 2000]

1. The Government of Qatar remains committed to implementing General Assembly resolution 54/21, entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba" fully and promptly and has not taken any measures contrary to this resolution.

2. Qatar has not promulgated or applied any laws or regulations that have extraterritorial effects and affect the sovereignty of other States, the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction and the freedom of international trade and navigation.

3. The Government of Qatar rejects the use of economic measures as a means of achieving political goals and is bound in its relations with other States by the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the rules of international law.

4. Qatar supports the aforementioned General Assembly resolution and calls for its implementation.

Republic of Korea

[Original: English]
[5 July 2000]

The Republic of Korea applies no laws or administrative measures aimed at restricting its economic relations with Cuba.

Russian Federation

[Original: Russian]
[7 June 2000]

As in the past, having expressed its support for General Assembly resolution 54/21, entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba", the Russian Federation shares the view of the overwhelming majority of the members of the United Nations strongly opposing the United States blockade and affirming the inadmissibility of any unilateral actions being taken by States in violation of

the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the basic norms of international law and justice.

The Russian Federation, like many countries, considers that the continuing trade and economic blockade imposed against Cuba by the United States is a relic of the "cold war", which is artificially impeding the formation of a world legal order based on the principles of international legality and justice.

Accordingly, together with other States, we have repeatedly expressed disagreement with the efforts by certain circles in the United States to tighten the embargo and illegally expand the extraterritorial implementation of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act of 12 March 1996. This law can rightly be described as discriminatory, since it contravenes the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law, and its extraterritorial effects affect the sovereignty of other States, the legitimate interests of legal entities and natural persons under their jurisdiction and freedom of trade and navigation.

The attempts that are made from time to time by the United States Congress to tighten the sanctions regime against Cuba and to exert pressure on third countries and certain international organizations in order to curtail their cooperation with Cuba, which is clearly at variance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and with the aspiration of peoples to achieve peace, sustainable development and prosperity, have caused concern on the part of the Russian Federation.

The Russian Federation fully reaffirms its commitment to the principle set forth in the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, adopted by the General Assembly on 24 October 1970, pursuant to which no State may use or encourage the use of economic, political or any other type of measures to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights and to secure from it advantages of any kind.

The Russian Federation, along with the overwhelming majority of the States Members of the United Nations, supports the appeal to all States to refrain from adopting or applying such unilateral coercive measures in circumvention of the United Nations Security Council. We also urge those States that have and continue to apply such laws and measures to take the necessary steps to repeal or invalidate them as soon as possible in accordance with their constitutional procedures. In this connection, the Russian Federation believes that it would be useful to consider, at the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly, the report on this subject being prepared by the Secretary-General in consultation with the appropriate organs and agencies of the United Nations system.

The Russian Federation regards the steps that are being taken by the United States Administration for further stepping up humanitarian contacts with Cuba, partially liberalizing deliveries of medicine and foodstuffs to the island and expanding the geographical area for charter flights between the two countries as a move in the right direction. We hope that these measures, although limited and selective in nature, along with the action taken by the United States Administration to reunite with his father the six-year-old Cuban boy, Elián González, who, by force of circumstances, came to be in United States territory, will mark the beginning of a constructive reconsideration of the United States policy towards Cuba.

We are convinced that the lifting of the United States economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba, in particular, and the normalization of United States-Cuban relations in general would help to improve the situation in the region and to integrate Cuba further into international economic relations, and thereby promote its advancement along the path of reform and positive changes in its economic and social life.

For its part, the Russian Federation, firmly guided by the principles of the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation, reaffirms its intention to continue to develop normal trade and economic relations with Cuba that are based on common interest and mutual advantage and are conducted in strict accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the generally recognized principles and norms of international law, without any discrimination or detriment to the legitimate rights and interests of the parties.

Senegal

[Original: French]
[6 April 2000]

Senegal does not apply or recognize unilateral measures with extraterritorial effects.

South Africa

[Original: English]
[5 July 2000]

1. The Republic of South Africa reiterates its opposition to the unilateral punitive economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

2. In this regard and consistent with General Assembly resolution 53/4 of 14 October 1998, the Government of South Africa maintains political, economic, trade, financial and cultural relations with the Republic of Cuba pursuant to action required under that resolution.

Sri Lanka

[Original: English]
[15 June 2000]

Sri Lanka has not promulgated any laws and measures referred to in the preamble to General Assembly resolution 54/21, entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo by the United States of America against Cuba". Therefore the question of repealing such laws does not arise.

Suriname

[Original: English]
[4 April 2000]

The Government of the Republic of Suriname has not promulgated and applied laws and measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to resolution 54/21.

Syrian Arab Republic

[Original: Arabic]
[20 June 2000]

1. The Syrian Arab Republic voted in favour of resolution 54/21, affirming as it does the need for compliance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the sovereign quality of States and non-intervention in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation. Resolution 54/21 also urges States to take the necessary steps to end as soon as possible the economic, commercial and financial blockade that has been maintained against Cuba for more than three decades.

2. The Syrian Arab Republic would like to refer in this connection to the final document of the Twelfth Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Durban, South Africa, on 3 September 1998, which called upon the Government of the United States of America to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial actions against Cuba, which cause huge material losses and extensive economic damage to the people of Cuba, in addition to being unilateral and contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and international law and to the principle of good-neighbourliness. The final document of the Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries called once again upon the United States of America to settle its differences with Cuba through negotiations on the basis of equality and mutual respect, in compliance with resolutions 47/19, 48/16, 49/9, 50/10, 51/17, 52/10, 53/4 and most recently 54/21 of the United Nations General Assembly.

Thailand

[Original: English]
[9 June 2000]

Thailand has not promulgated and applied laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to the aforesaid resolution. Moreover, Thailand also does not agree with the application of unilateral measures by one State against another State that results in extraterritorial enforcement of those measures upon other States, which in effect violates international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

Turkey

[Original: English]
[7 July 2000]

The Republic of Turkey does not have any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to General Assembly resolution 54/21 and reaffirms its adherence to the principle of freedom of trade and navigation in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

Ukraine

[Original: English]
[9 May 2000]

1. Ukraine does not have any legislation or regulations whose extraterritorial effects could affect the sovereignty of other States and the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction, or the freedom of trade and international navigation.

2. Equally, the Government of Ukraine does not accept the use of economic measures as a means of achieving political aims and upholds, in its relations with other countries, the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the norms of international law and the freedom of trade and navigation.

Uruguay

[Original: Spanish]
[27 June 2000]

In view of the fact that Uruguay has traditionally maintained a foreign policy which encourages free trade without restrictions of any kind and that it does not recognize in its legislation the extraterritorial application of domestic laws, the Government of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay has not applied any measures or laws of the kind referred to in the preamble of General Assembly resolution 54/21.

Venezuela

[Original: Spanish]
[30 June 2000]

1. Venezuela has consistently and repeatedly expressed its opposition to the promulgation and application of laws and regulations with extraterritorial effects which affect the sovereignty of other States, the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction and the freedom of international trade and navigation.

2. Venezuela considers that unilateral measures with coercive and extraterritorial effects, such as the embargo against Cuba, have a negative impact on the legal regime governing economic and commercial exchanges among nations and on the efforts made to achieve continental and subregional economic integration.

3. In accordance with these views, Venezuela has voted in favour of the resolutions that have been adopted by the General Assembly since 1992 condemning the embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

4. When the General Assembly adopted resolution 54/21 in November 1999, Venezuela reiterated its opposition to the application of unilateral coercive measures such as the Helms-Burton Act owing to its belief that such actions violated the sovereignty of States, affected the legitimate interests of entities and citizens under the jurisdiction of third parties and undermined the rules of free trade stipulated by the World Trade Organization. It also reiterated the content of the Asunción Declaration, adopted at the Eleventh Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Rio Group, as well as other similar statements issued by the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Concerted Political Action in Latin America (see document A/54/PV.50, p. 14).

5. Venezuela's immutable position on this matter has been maintained in various international forums at which the application of unilateral coercive measures with extraterritorial effects has been considered.

6. In the final document of the Thirteenth Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held on 8 and 9 April 2000 in Cartagena, Colombia, the member States condemned the continued unilateral application of coercive

economic and other measures against a number of developing countries, and called on States not to recognize them. They also called on States to refrain from adopting or implementing similar coercive measures such as the Helms-Burton and D'Amato-Kennedy Acts, whose content and purpose violated international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

7. Similarly, the States members of the Group of 77, meeting in Havana, Cuba, for the South Summit held from 10 to 14 April 2000, underlined the necessity for developed countries to eliminate laws and regulations with adverse extraterritorial effects and other forms of unilateral economic coercive measures that were inconsistent with the principles of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of the multilateral trading system.

8. The Heads of State and Government of the Group of 15, meeting in Cairo, Egypt, from 13 to 20 June 2000 on the occasion of their Tenth Summit, included in their joint communiqué a recommendation that urgent and effective measures should be adopted to eliminate the use of unilateral coercive economic measures against developing countries not authorized by relevant organs of the United Nations or inconsistent with the principles of international law as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations.

9. At the hemispheric level, Venezuela voted in favour of the 1996 resolution AG/RES.1364 (XXVI-0/96) of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), the text of which, expressing concern about "the enactment and application by the member States of laws and regulations, the extraterritorial effects of which affect the sovereignty of other States", instructed the Inter-American Juridical Committee to decide upon the validity under international law of the Helms-Burton Act and to present its findings to the OAS Permanent Council. Subsequently, at the 1997 General Assembly of OAS, Venezuela joined in supporting resolution AG/RES.1447 (XXVII-0/97), in which the member States took note of the opinion of the Inter-American Juridical Committee, which had concluded unanimously that the bases and potential application of the Helms-Burton Act were "not in conformity with international law".

10. In any event, Venezuela's support for resolutions condemning the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba should not be interpreted as support for any regime in particular, since it believes that the arguments put forward are legitimate for any political situation in the countries against which such measures are applied. Venezuela is convinced that the changes necessary for promoting democracy and the fundamental freedoms which all countries desire can be brought about only through cooperation and dialogue.

11. Venezuela's position reflects the international community's nearly unanimous opposition to the promulgation and application of such unilateral and extraterritorial coercive measures, which clearly violate the basic principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

Viet Nam

[Original: English]
[1 May 2000]

1. Over the past many years, the General Assembly has adopted numerous resolutions requesting the United States of America to put an end to the policies and acts of economic, commercial and financial embargo and blockade imposed upon the Republic of Cuba, which seriously violate international laws and run counter to the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the common trends of the world today, namely, development cooperation on the basis of equality among sovereign States and non-discrimination among political systems.

2. The above-mentioned resolutions of the General Assembly have been continuously adopted by overwhelming majorities, and most recently resolution 54/21 was adopted on 9 November 1999 by 155 votes in favour. This demonstrates not only the urgent need for the abolition of these obsolete policies imposed upon the Cuban people, but also the common desires of States for the development of healthy international relations, cooperation for development on the basis of equality, non-discrimination among political systems and respect for the right of every nation to choose its means of development.

3. Viet Nam is of the view that all the differences between the United States and the Republic of Cuba should be solved through dialogue and negotiations on the basis of mutual respect, respect for the independence and sovereignty of States and non-

interference in the internal affairs of States. In line with this, Viet Nam welcomes every effort of the parties concerned to this effect.

4. The United Nations should produce concrete initiatives and measures so that these resolutions will be implemented as soon as possible to put an immediate end to the unilateral policies of embargo imposed upon the Republic of Cuba.

5. Once again, Viet Nam reaffirms its support for and cooperation and solidarity with the Cuban people. Together with all the peoples of the world who cherish peace, freedom and justice, Viet Nam will do its utmost to assist the Cuban people in overcoming the impacts of the above-mentioned unjust policies of embargo and blockade which violate the norms of international law.

III. Replies received from organs and agencies of the United Nations system

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

[Original: English/Spanish]
[26 June 2000]

1. As indicated in the previous report of the Secretary-General on this question, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has produced an updated entitled version of the book *La Economía Cubana: Reformas estructurales y desempeño económico en los noventa*, originally published jointly by ECLAC and the Fondo de Cultura Económica in March 1998 (Spanish only), with the financial support of the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA).

2. The updated version was published in July. In the study ECLAC has expanded the analysis of Cuba's international economic relations, paying particular attention to the efforts aimed at rebuilding its external sector. Thus, chapter IV explores recent developments in areas such as export promotion; input procurement and import substitution policies; foreign direct investment and policies aimed at promoting other types of financing; and the impact of the embargo on trade negotiations and the search for new markets.

3. Box 1 of Chapter IV, entitled "Effects of the embargo", constitutes the most straightforward input to the subject under consideration. The text of Box 1 reads as follows:

Effects of the embargo

In its *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean 1992*, the Commission had already commented on the adverse effects of the United States embargo: "Strictly speaking, the embargo has been maintained for more than three decades, although it directly influenced only 15 per cent of Cuba's total foreign trade. With the drying up of Cuba's advantageous trade relations with the socialist camp, the embargo began to have an impact on the entire Cuban economy." Although it is difficult to measure the direct and indirect costs of the policy, Cuban researchers estimate that by 1998 the cost in unrealized trade, loss of output, financial losses, travel prevented and the higher cost of transactions had amounted to about US$ 67 billion (Aguilar Trujillo, 1998).

The Torricelli Act of 1992 has made it harder for Cuba to handle its overseas trade. In the first place, it prevents subsidiaries of United States firms in third countries from trading with Cuba. The United States Treasury Department calculated that in 1991 two-way trade between Cuba and these subsidiaries amounted to US$ 718 million. Second, the Act stipulates that ships loading or unloading merchandise in Cuba shall be prohibited from docking at United States ports for six months thereafter. In 1992, the Cuban fleet was able to transport barely 20 per cent of the tonnage of goods traded in both directions. The provision thus raises international freight costs and delays delivery of imported and exported goods.

In 1996 the United States Congress passed the Helms-Burton Act, further tightening the embargo, chiefly by slowing the flow of foreign investment. By putting at risk the property and bank accounts of third parties that do business with Cuba or have access to property of United States citizens that was expropriated by the Cuban Government, and by denying a United States entry visa to the officers and principal shareholders of firms that invest in property that may have been expropriated, the Act has

intensified the negative repercussions on the Cuban economy. Some firms have withdrawn from the island and others have cancelled projects, although, on balance, large amounts of foreign investment have continued to flow in.

The report of the Secretary-General to the fifty-second session of the General Assembly notes that "the continuation and strengthening of the ... embargo ..., including its extraterritorial effects, is affecting in different ways the difficult economic recovery process initiated in 1994" (see document A/52/342, p.33), with three principal effects: (a) the embargo raises the risks and costs for foreign investment capital; (b) it increases the difficulties for Cuba of negotiating debt settlements and credit with public and commercial creditors; and (c) it maintains conditions that raise the costs of sourcing, financing and transporting imports.

Office of the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations system's operational activities for development

[Original: English]
[23 June 2000]

1. The economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba has continued to severely affect the social and economic situation of the country throughout 1999 and the first half of 2000. The Government of Cuba has highlighted efforts by institutions of the United States Government to prevent foreign nationals and commercial organizations from doing business with Cuba, thus extending the scope of the embargo beyond United States jurisdiction.

2. The adverse effects of the embargo on the Cuban economy and population have been compounded by the Cuban Adjustment Act, United States legislation that grants Cuban nationals residence permits in the United States as long as they are able to set foot in United States territory, even through clandestine means. This Act has fuelled the illegal contraband of persons out of Cuba, as well as badly prepared attempts, which occasionally have a tragic sequel of deaths at sea, as recent highly publicized cases have dramatically underscored.

3. The United States embargo and related legislation constitute in different ways a major obstacle for the recovery of the Cuban economy and consequently impede the normal functioning of the social services, affecting in a negative manner the living conditions of the Cuban population. These provisions of the embargo constitute a major handicap for the further development of the economy in general and for the needed rehabilitation of its infrastructure in particular. The exclusion of Cuba from the major concessional lending sources not only prevents social-related investments and degrades the environment for private investment in general, but also limits the possibilities of Cuba having access to global settlement mechanisms for a possible rescheduling and/or restructuring of its external debt. Moreover, the United States embargo affects the possibilities to receive loans and commercial credits on regular terms and hampers the development of capital investment flows because of the higher costs and risks.

4. Apart from the above, the United States embargo also affects the Cuban economy by bringing about a sharp increase in the direct and/or indirect costs of external trade, maritime transport, the provision of services and effective access to materials and/or equipment of critical importance for the country. Furthermore, the United States embargo sharply increases the vulnerability of Cuba to the negative effects of globalization and hampers its access to its positive influences.

5. On 5 May 2000, the Supreme People's Court of Cuba issued a judgement on a claim against the Government of the United States of America submitted by eight Cuban NGOs. The claim lists by sectors the economic damages to the country resulting from the United States embargo in an amount of US$ 67 billion, plus an additional $54 billion for other economic damages stemming from alleged covert actions against the country.

6. To comply with their respective mandates while addressing the overall situation of Cuba, the programmes, funds and specialized agencies represented in the country are currently working along the following fundamental lines:

(a) Supporting the consolidation and further improvement of social services, while alleviating bottlenecks in meeting basic needs;

(b) Supporting the economic recovery process through the promotion of a favourable environment and the development of new managerial systems;

(c) Fostering support to critical areas of the Cuban economy, such as food security, recovery of industrial production, alternative energy production and management and environmental protection;

(d) Promoting cooperation between Cuba and the rest of the world in the areas covered by the respective mandates of each of the organizations of the United Nations system.

7. Achievements in these areas include the design and approval of new programmes addressing those most critical issues. Progress in the first area is particularly noticeable in the health and sanitation sector (UNICEF, UNFPA, UNAIDS, WHO/PAHO, UNOPS, UNDP), in the educational and scientific sector (UNICEF, UNDP) and in the efforts for human development at the local level (UNDP, UNOPS). In the second area, a large-scale initiative has been under way since 1998 to strengthen the economic management institutions of the Government, thus supporting the recovery of the Cuban economy (UNDP). In the third area, concrete projects have been initiated and/or continued for supporting advancement in industrial production (UNIDO), food security and agricultural and cattle production (WFP, FAO) and in sustainable energy production and management and environmental protection (UNDP). In the fourth area, a large range of activities within the respective mandates of the United Nations organizations were undertaken to promote contacts and cooperation with the outside world.

8. In the first half of 2000, UNDP has sharply increased its efforts in support of various fields of economic and social development in Cuba. Especially critical is UNDP's support for local decentralized human development initiatives in line with the Plan of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and initiatives for the development of sustainable clean energy production, using domestically produced biomass, which would reduce the country's dependence on oil imports. Likewise, several ongoing initiatives provide support for environmental protection, including forest rehabilitation, cleaning of contaminated bays, coastal and biodiversity protection, which are critical for the promotion of an enabling environment towards the development of the tourist industry, the country's main foreign exchange earner, and the elimination of substances that deplete the ozone layer. Also ongoing are initiatives in support of economic recovery, access to information technology and the continued development of the biotechnological pharmaceutical sector.

9. Although strategically oriented and catalytic, the support provided by the organizations of the United Nations system cannot compensate, by nature or volume, for Cuba's exclusion from concessional lending and the shortage of capital flows that are required to redress the Cuban economy and further develop the country. Hence the United States embargo and related restrictions against Cuba remain a major obstacle to the development of the country.

International Labour Organization

[Original: English]
[28 April 2000]

1. Cuba is treated in the same way as any other International Labour Organization (ILO) member State. Cuba participates actively in the International Labour Conference and other pertinent ILO activities.

2. In correspondence dating from 1995 between the ILO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Minister of Labour and Social Security of Cuba, the ILO has stated its view that the United Nations is the appropriate forum to address the question of the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

Universal Postal Union

[Original: English]
[17 May 2000]

Cuba enjoys full membership of the Universal Postal Union and consequently benefits from the same rights and obligations as the other 188 member countries, including technical assistance activities, in particular in the areas of postal reform, quality of service and human resources management.

World Food Programme

[Original: English]
[19 May 2000]

1. The World Food Programme (WFP) continues to support Cuba both in food aid for development activities and in relief assistance for victims of natural disasters, such as drought and hurricane damage. WFP began operations in Cuba in 1963.

2. During 36 years of continuing work, WFP has implemented 4 developments projects and 10 emergency operations, at a cumulative value of over US$ 208 million. In line with the Government's priorities, WFP supports the agricultural policy to improve food security and the quality of life of the main vulnerable groups. This, in turn, contributes to the self-sufficiency of the beneficiaries through the promotion of food production. WFP has also played an important role in assisting the populations most affected by natural disasters, through the provision of emergency humanitarian food aid.

3. Significant advances have taken place with WFP projects, in particular "Dairy Development in Las Tunas Province" (project 4391) and "Agricultural Production for Food Security in Granma Province" (project 5686).

4. Project 4391 achieved an annual milk production of 29.2 million litres and significantly contributed to milk production in Las Tunas, thereby contributing to the National Food Plan. It raised the incomes of dairy farmers and provided job opportunities through the introduction of milk production activities and promoted women's participation. During the life of the project, with the contribution of WFP, credits were granted to 8,725 persons, indirectly benefiting over 30,000. The project ended in 1999.

5. Project 5686 began in 1997 and has since assisted 16,387 beneficiaries with credit funds. As a result, as of September 1999, over 81 million litres of milk, 15.5 metric tonnes of meat and more than 170 metric tonnes of root vegetables, beans and vegetables had been produced. Also, 2,015 permanent new jobs and 11,662 temporary jobs were established.

6. As a result of El Niño, in 1998, a severe drought had a direct negative impact on Cuba's population, particularly in the eastern provinces. WFP, under Emergency Operation 6037, entitled "Relief Food Assistance to Drought Victims in Five Eastern Provinces", mobilized $2.5 million for purchases of approximately 4,970 metric tonnes of food products, to benefit over 257,000 drought-affected persons, of whom 14,909 were pregnant women and 217,404 were children in boarding or half-boarding schools. Special priority was given to the nutritional status of vulnerable groups, i.e., pregnant and nursing women, children under five, primary and secondary school students, disabled persons and the elderly.

7. WFP has also supported donors' bilateral efforts to enhance food security in Cuba. WFP is currently monitoring the distribution of 26,300 metric tonnes of rice donated by Japan.

8. More recently, the Government of Cuba and WFP have been considering a new development project to begin after the completion of project 5686, which would focus on providing nutritional support to highly vulnerable groups, and contribute to the reactivation of food industries in targeted provinces. This approach will build on the successful experience obtained in the implementation of the drought Emergency Operation.

9. WFP is in contact with United States business firms in an effort to facilitate agricultural donations from the United States to Cuba. Recently, 10 major agribusiness firms and industry association representatives from the United States participated in an agricultural and humanitarian mission to Cuba. These firms are exploring opportunities of working with WFP as they seek to develop agriculture as an effective means to provide for the well-being of the Cuban people.

United Nations Children's Fund

[Original: English]
[23 June 2000]

1. The situation of children in Cuba continues to be adversely affected by a number of internal as well as external factors, including the embargo. As with the majority of such situations, it is very difficult to separate the combined negative effects of those factors.

2. In spite of the difficulties, Cuba enjoys a high level of health and education indicators among countries in the Latin American and Caribbean region. The infant mortality rate in 1998 was estimated at 8 per 1,000 live births, which is comparable to the rate in

developed countries. Nevertheless, the country faces increasing difficulties in preserving the level of expenditures in the social sector, which have historically been very high.

3. According to the Government, in 1997, the embargo was responsible for an increase in transportation costs of $21 million, and an extra expenditure of $48 million owing to lack of free access to cheaper foodstuffs. In 1998 and 1999, the effects of the persistent drought in the eastern provinces and of hurricane George on the agricultural sector added to the country's difficulties.

4. The Cuban public health care system has been stressed by a number of factors, the greatest being costs, which have increased by $1.2 billion over the past eight years. The Government reports that the embargo has made it difficult to maintain the infrastructure, including medical equipment, and to acquire vaccines, medicines and chemicals not produced in the country. This has had an impact on both preventive and curative aspects of health care.

5. The well-being and health of Cuban women of all ages has been adversely affected by restrictions on the availability of household goods, foodstuffs, medical products and fuel. Routine screening programmes for detection of breast cancer have been discontinued and preventive care such as cytological tests, Papanicolaou and mammographies have been significantly reduced. Owing to the shortage of material recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO), mammograms are currently only given to women in high-risk groups for breast cancer.

6. At present, only two or three surgical interventions are performed daily, which represents a dramatic drop compared to 15 surgical interventions performed during the 1980s. The daily lives and well-being of women are also affected by lack of access to sanitary pads. The use of alternative materials is thus increasing the risk of infections.

7. Iron-containing folic acid and vitamin C supplements had to be distributed nationwide to combat anaemia which affected more than one third of the population of pregnant women. The diet of Cuban women does not contain adequate levels of some essential nutrients. The low intake of calcium-rich food leads to osteoporosis and frequent bone fractures.

8. Access to clean water remains a serious health concern for over 4 million people — 2 million of them children — living in cities of more than 100,000 inhabitants. About 72 per cent of drinking water must be treated with chlorine gas, but lack of chemical supplies has led to the closing of 46 per cent of the water treatment facilities. In 1998, only 69 per cent of the sodium hipoclorite and 55.5 per cent of the aluminum sulphate needed to treat drinking water were available nationwide.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

[Original: English/French/Spanish]
[2 June 2000]

1. Actions of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has contributed to diminishing the negative impact and isolation that the embargo has imposed on Cuba. The most relevant actions have been those in support of activities in the fields of competence of the organization, notably education and culture. All the activities and projects carried out by the UNESCO Havana Office strengthened the flow of cooperation and experts from outside the country and priority was given to projects dealing with culture and development, in particular, tourism.

The activities were as follows:

(i) Financial support to the course "Los jóvenes y la política de juventud en Cuba", for 20 participants from different youth and student organizations of Cuba;

(ii) Renewal of the Pioneer Camp "Ernesto Guevara". This project is aimed at improving the conditions of the camp, where different national and international events are held with the participation of Cuban and foreign children. This action will contribute to creating new opportunities for cultural exchange;

(iii) Financial support was given to the organization of the event "La joven narrativa cubana en vísperas del nuevo milenio", with the sponsorship of the Unión de Escritores y Artistas de Cuba and the participation of 42 young Cuban writers;

(iv) Financial support for the participation of Cuban specialists in the conservation of heritage at the International Seminar on Cultural Heritage and Development, held at Campeche, Mexico;

(v) Financial support for the participation of Cuban specialists in the first International Congress on Gastronomic Heritage and Cultural Tourism, held at Puebla, Mexico;

(vi) Election of the UNESCO Regional Office for Culture for Latin America and the Caribbean as a member of the organizing committee for the first International Congress on Culture and Development, which took place in Havana from 7 to 11 June 1999 and was organized by the Cuban Ministry of Culture. Financial assistance was provided and a background paper was prepared;

(vii) Formulation by a team of experts from Spain, Mexico and Cuba of a plan of action for the conservation and administration of Morro-Cabana Park in Havana, a symbol of the Cuban capital and a site declared part of the heritage of mankind;

(viii) Organization by the UNESCO Chair in Cultural Property Preservation Sciences of an international workshop on the integrated preservation and development of historic centres. The workshop took place at the National Centre for Preservation, Restoration and Museum Science of Cuba and was attended by a large group of young specialists from the region and Latin American and European experts;

(ix) In collaboration with the Office of the City Historian of Trinidad and Cienfuegos, and ORCALC, organization of a workshop for the training of artisans, to be held in Trinidad and Cienfuegos;

(x) Contribution to the publication of *Diccionario de la lengua conga residual en Cuba*;

(xi) Financial and technical assistance to the Ministry of Culture for the development of art schools in Cuba;

(xii) Financial and technical assistance for crafts promotion and publication of a catalogue on Cuban crafts;

(xiii) Financial contribution towards the restoration of the Castillo San Pedro de la Roca in Santiago de Cuba;

(xiv) Financial support for the construction of the monument "Loma del Cimarrón", as part of the Slave Route in the Caribbean;

(xv) Financial contribution to the organization of the course "Gestiones de Sitio del Patrimonio Mundial", to be held in Santiago de Cuba;

(xvi) Financial contribution to the organization of a meeting of the network of cities with historical centres under restoration, held at Havana;

(xvii) Feasibility study on the development of the Jagua fortress in Cienfuegos;

(xviii) Execution of the special project on youth and the world heritage in collaboration with the Office of the City Historian of Old Havana;

(xix) Financial support to the Ministry of Education for the purchase of school materials;

(xx) Holding of a meeting of the Laboratorio de Control de la Calidad de la Educación with the participation of experts from all regions;

(xxi) Participation in the preparatory meeting of Ministers of Education of Iberoamerica, prior to the Summit of Heads of State and Government in Havana;

(xxii) Organization of a UNESCO subregional workshop entitled "A cultural approach to the prevention and care of HIV/AIDS" (Havana, 26-30 April 1999), with the participation of representatives of national bodies concerned with control and struggle against AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases, non-governmental entities from seven countries of the subregion and four agencies of the United Nations system;

(xxiii) Monitoring of the implementation by the Cuban counterpart of the Cuban Case Study for the Cultural Approach to the Prevention and Care of HIV/AIDS, held in the framework of the UNESCO/UNAIDS project;

(xxiv) Intellectual and technical assistance to the Instituto de Cibernética, Matemática y Física (ICIMAF), for the organization of the International Conference on Science and

Technology for Development) (Havana, 22-26 March 1999) in which UNESCO participated;

(xxv) Intellectual and technical assistance to ICIMAF for the Conference of the Southern Zone of Havana;

(xxvi) Contribution to sports fields in isolated areas of Cuba within the framework of the "Sports for All" project;

(xxvii) Assistance to the Centro de Gestión, Información y Educación Ambiental for the elaboration of a sub-project to promote the implementation of the National Programme of Environmental Education for Sustainable Development of the Rural Communities of the Western Zapata Swamp;

(xxviii) Financial assistance for the organization of the International Congress "Biotechnology 99" held at Havana;

(xxix) Financial support for the participation of Cuban specialists in the World Science Conference and of a young specialist at the International Forum of Young Scientists, both in Budapest;

(xxx) Financial support for the participation of a Cuban member of the New York meeting of the UNESCO/UNICEF Joint Committee for Education;

(xxxi) Financial support for the project "Management of Natural Resources of the Areas of the Almendares and Quibú rivers", in Havana;

(xxxii) Financial support for the publication of an anthology of the work of the Cuban poet Serafina Núñez.

2. Through its office in Cuba, UNESCO helped to reduce the impact of the embargo by contributing to various development programmes in its fields of competence. Different sectors of Cuban society have acknowledged the efforts of UNESCO, even though they have not been enough to offset the negative impact of the embargo in the areas of education, science and culture.

United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention

[Original: English]
[7 April 2000]

1. Despite scarce material resources, Cuba contributes significantly to regional and international drug control through sea and air interdiction. There is strong political will to keep the island free of drugs. The United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (UNDCP) recently signed a two-year project to strengthen drug interdiction capabilities and training, and develop a drug abuse prevention programme, making full use of Cuba's extensive health and education infrastructure.

2. To raise international awareness of Cuba's drug control efforts and achievements, UNDCP is planning a Caribbean regional meeting on results in drug control, to be held at Havana in September 2000.

United Nations Environment Programme

[Original: English]
[16 May 2000]

1. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has not been involved with the Government of the United States of America or the Government of Cuba concerning issues relating to the embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba. The Twelfth meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of the Latin America and the Caribbean region (for which UNEP is the secretariat), held in Barbados from 2 to 7 March 2000, in its decision 19, expressed its support for the implementation of General Assembly resolution 54/21. The relevant parts of the decision read as follows:

> "*Taking into account* United Nations General Assembly resolution 54/21 on the "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba",
>
> "*Noting with concern* that the embargo is far from reducing the enforcement of its economic, commercial and financial measures against Cuba, and is enforcing them even more strictly,

"*Reaffirming* that at the Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh meetings of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Havana, 1995; Buenos Aires, 1996; and Lima, 1998, respectively, decisions were adopted in relation to the environmental effects caused by the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba,

"*Decide*

"1. To reiterate the rejection of all extraterritorial measures promulgated against Cuba, which place a constraint on the normal and essential development of relations of cooperation and exchange in environmental matters in the region;

"2. To call for the lifting of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba, so as to allow full implementation of the Cuban National Environment and Development Programme and contribute to the fulfilment of Agenda 21;

"3. To reiterate its deep concern about the effects afflicting Cuba in all spheres of economic, commercial and financial life, and particularly in environmental matters, as a consequence of the embargo."

2. UNEP has been providing support to the Government of Cuba in the following areas: (a) development of a National Biodiversity Strategy; dissemination of information and (b) production of a publication on the Guantanamo land degradation success case study; (c) report on National Climate Change and the Impact of El Niño on Cuba; (d) development of a Cuban Environmental Outlook report; (e) establishment of the UNEP Mercure Satellite Communication System in Cuba.

United Nations Population Fund

[Original: English]
[30 June 2000]

1. Although the Government of Cuba has continued to prioritise the social sectors and social security, the lack of foreign exchange and access to development financing represent major obstacles to Cuba's economic growth and are reflected in the population's daily hardships. Harsh restrictions on imports imposed by the United States embargo also have a direct impact on the reproductive health status of the population.

2. Cuba receives very scant assistance in the population field from sources other than the organizations of the United Nations system. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is the main source of assistance to Cuba in the area of sexual and reproductive health, including the supply of contraceptives.

3. The Cuban population has ample knowledge of the most common contraceptive methods and uses mainly intrauterine devices, hormonal contraceptives and condoms. However, the availability of these methods is severely limited, as is the case also with medicines and other equipment and commodities related to sexual and reproductive health, as a result of the restricted access of Cuba to foreign products and suppliers.

4. While the incidence of AIDS is still low in comparison with other countries in the region, the number of HIV-positive cases has been rising since 1998, mainly among males aged 25 to 34. Owing to the economic situation, the number of condoms is considerably insufficient, and currently stands at a figure of roughly 5 million annually, as against the estimated 25 million required to cover needs.

5. In addition, there is a scarcity of education and communication materials to instruct youth on AIDS prevention and on the prevention of unwanted pregnancies. Moreover, the high rate of abortion, particularly among women under age 20, remains a priority issue which must be addressed through greater access to information, counselling and appropriate contraceptive methods. At the present time, UNFPA continues to support efforts by the Government to produce sex education materials for selected provinces, but this is insufficient for coverage of the entire country.

6. Finally, a major issue of concern is Cuba's growing elderly population. Owing in part to the financial restrictions and consequent shortages of all types of materials, the Government is unable to adequately meet the needs of this population group, particularly in the areas of housing, maintenance and equipment for nursing homes and day-care centres.